

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 01657 120909Z

13

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SS-15 SSO-00 RSC-01 L-02

/030 W

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O 120830Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2379

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1657

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (LIGHT, DAVID)

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF AMCIT DAVID LIGHT

REFERENCE: STATE 248102

1. I WAS RECEIVED THIS MORNING BY DIRECTOR OF EURO-AMERICAN SECTION AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL OF MOFA AS ACTING FONSEC "VERY BUSY". I EXPRESSED OUR PLEASURE AT SIAD'S DECISION ON RELEASE OF LIGHT AND OUR READINESS TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT MODALITIES OF THIS RELEASE. THEY SAID WORD HAD BEEN RECEIVED OF PRESIDENT'S DECISION. LIGHT WOULD BE BROUGHT TO MOGADISCIO FROM HARGEISA ON NEXT AVAILABLE PLANE "IN NEXT FEW DAYS" AND HE WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO EMBASSY.

2. MOFA OFFICIALS STATED THAT SOMALI INVESTIGATION HAD SHOWN THAT LIGHT'S BORDER CROSSING WAS INTENTIONAL AND THAT SOMALI GOVERNMENT TOOK VERY SERIOUS VIEW OF THIS MATTER. FREQUENT APPROACHES BY USG OFFICIALS IN MOGADISCIO, WASHINGTON--AND OF COURSE MOST UNUSUAL STEP OF "DISTURBING PRESIDENT" ON HIS WEST AFRICAN TRIP--SHOWED THAT US ATTACHED "UNUSUAL IMPORTANCE" TO LIGHT. PRESIDENT'S DECISION WAS HOWEVER TAKEN IN SPIRIT OF IMPROVING
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RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

3. I NOTED THAT NEXT COMMERCIAL FLIGHT FROM HARGEISA WAS, I UNDERSTOOD, ON NOVEMBER 13 AND THAT IF LIGHT WERE ON THAT PLANE HE COULD GO ON TO NAIROBI ON THURSDAY. I URGED MOST RAPID POSSIBLE RELEASE.

4. I THEN AGAIN EXPRESSED USG PLEASURE AT PRESIDENT'S DECISION BUT NOTED THAT US TAKES WELFARE OF ALL ITS CITIZENS VERY SERIOUSLY AND FAILED TO UNDERSTAND WHY REPEATED REQUESTS OF FONSEC AND OTHER MOFA OFFICIALS HAD NOT RPT NOT EARLIER PRODUCED DECISION ON RELEASE OR EVEN AGREEMENT TO CONSULAR ACCESS. I STRESSED AGAIN US CONCERN FOR WELFARE OF ITS CITIZENS AND NOTED THAT IF A SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCE SHOULD UNFORTUNATELY ARISE AGAIN WE WOULD BE JUST AS INSISTENT ON RELEASE AND CONSULAR ACCESS AS WE HAD BEEN IN LIGHT CASE.

5. DISCUSSION CONCLUDED WITH MOFA OFFICIALS ASSURING ME THEY WOULD BE IN TOUCH JUST AS SOON AS THEY HAD WORD WHEN LIGHT WOULD ARRIVE MOGADISCIO.

6. WE WILL PUT LIGHT ON FIRST AVAILABLE PLANE TO NAIROBI OR ADDIS ABABABA FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE. THIS WILL PRESUMABLY BE EITHER THE NOVEMBER 14 OR NOVEMBER 17, PLANE TO NAIROBI.
KIRK

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